

EDITORIAL

With recent scenes being shown on television of Prime Minister Chretien bicycling around China and meeting with leaders in Indonesia, one is left with the impression that Canada has abandoned its stance on human rights when it comes to trade. Has the Prime Minister forgotten the human rights abuses committed against the dissidents in China? Or the slaughter of the students at Tiananmen by the Chinese government troops? What about the genocide being perpetrated by the Indonesian Government against the people of East Timor? Has the Prime Minister forgotten about this too? If he has not forgotten these violations then Prime Minister Chretien has a lot of nerve to carry out trade negotiations between Canada and these countries.

As students it would be unethical for us to allow this action to go unprotested. The martyrs of Tiananmen may have been silenced and the Goddess of Democracy smashed, but, we as students cannot allow them, or their ideals to go unremembered here in Canada. We have a duty to remember their struggle and its goal. They didn't fight for their own interests but rather for the ideals of democracy and freedom. They didn't fight with guns and bombs, but rather, with peaceful assembly.

The right to protest the actions of one's government is central to the democratic ideal. Had the Tiananmen students lived in Canada they would have had the right to protest. Instead, their protest was put down with violence and the ring leaders were sought out to be beaten, imprisoned and tortured. With the voices of the dissidents having now been silenced in their own country it is from countries such as ours that the voices must now be heard.

While we do not have the right to impose our political ideology upon another sovereign nation, we do have a duty to speak up when our government seeks to do trade with a country which violates the fundamental rights which we have agreed, should be guaranteed to all.

The International Bill of Human Rights was proclaimed by the United Nations in 1948. It states in articles nineteen and twenty that everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression as well as having the right to peaceful assembly and association. Article five states "No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment".

If as Canadians we claim to belong to a moral nation, which is concerned with human rights, then we cannot ethically ignore the actions of those countries which we have economic dealings with. If these countries violate the rights which we have agreed apply universally, then we have a duty to oppose their actions.

The media reported that Chretien said, he brought up the subject of human rights with the leaders of both countries. The Chinese government however, denied that the issue was ever even discussed. Until the Chinese government not only discusses but, agrees to abide by the human rights which Canada has decided are internationally applicable, then Canada is acting unethically by having economic dealings with China. In the deals which are being actively sought by Canada, we will export the fruits of the labours of our intellectuals to China, a country which kills, imprisons and tortures its own intellectuals.



Students Clearing House

A Little Known Branch of the Student Union

Person Who paid Student Union Fees
The University of
New Brunswick
Fredericton, NB
E3B 5A3

Dear Person who paid Student Union Fees.

First the good news... You have won 4 big fat cents and here it is! Now the bad news...

Dear Friend:

I don't know how to break the bad news nicely—so I'll just speak plainly: THIS MAY BE THE LAST ATTEMPT OF AN EFFECTIVE STUDENT UNION EXECUTIVE FOR SOME TIME... unless you renew your interest to *The UNSU*: Life without direction or focus
It's not that we don't want to keep you as a friend... but the only way we can give away so many BIG FAT CENTS is to sell ourselves.

I'm sure you understand... it's a simple matter of economics. We can afford to reach our campus regularly *only* to our customers—people who not only enter our contests, but also take advantage of our new-subscriber deals you can't beat anywhere in Canada and give us a hundred bucks.
Quite simply, if we didn't sell ourselves, we wouldn't be giving away all those BIG FAT CENTS. And we really love it when we can keep our customers happy.

The following letter could find its way into your mailbox if you don't stop being apathetic towards your campus and those who run it. If you've got a gripe or you just plain think something sucks on campus and you want someone to help you complain, drop me a line at

Mugwump Journal
The Brunswickan
Campus Mail

I'll make sure someone gets piss in their cornflakes.
Remember campus mail is a free service to students and Hell, the student union *works* for you!

Student Union Building
Fredericton, NB
E3B 5A3
Telephone 453-4955

Blood n' Thunder

Student Union Rejects Demonstration Against Cuts

Open letter to the students of UNB:

On Nov. 21 the UNB-STU Branch of the International Socialists approached the executive of the student union. A letter (replicated in this paper), calling a demonstration on Dec. 16/94 was given to them for an endorsement and/or participation. Surprisingly (?), the "representatives" of the students (and hence their interests) did not see Axworthy's proposed cuts of \$2 billion to education as a good enough reason to at least endorse a demonstration.

The fact is that the UNB union reps are more interested in playing politician and meeting with "important" people (who could care less what they say or present) than involving the people who are going to feel the cuts the most—us!

The UNB executive is clearly an elitist group of bureaucrats who think that their phony-baloney office machinations are more significant than the mobilisation of the students who give them what power they do have. It is condescending, and a slap in the face to any and all students who want to give Axworthy and his cronies a piece of their minds on Dec. 16. Don't let them pacify us. We're not mushrooms. Join the I.S. and the Ad Hoc Committee Against the Cuts in building a demonstration that will show the Liberals who is really the boss—in spite of "our" student union.

Scott Jack
UNB-STU Branch,
International Socialists

The Real Reason Behind Raalte's letter?

To the Editor:

In regards to Mr. Van Raalte's (sic) verbosity in last week's edition—if I were a cynic, which I'm not, I'd be inclined to think that young James is actively seeking employment on the UNB Campus. But again, I'm not a cynic.

Cheers,
Scooter,
Law Rep, UNB Student Council

HEMP NB Says Thanks

To the Editor,

HEMP N.B. would like to thank everyone who was involved in this year's petition drive for Medical Marijuana Day (Nov. 15). In particular, we would like to thank *The Brunswickan* and *CHSR-FM* for their coverage of the event (apologies to *CHSR* for not notifying them in advance).

Although we were just short of our goal of 200 signatures, the primary goal of bringing the issue to the public eye was successfully achieved. The amount of interest shown by the UNB/STU population was very encouraging. Many visitors to the booth were intrigued by the issue and have asked for more information regarding the medical uses of cannabis and the efforts of HEMP N.B. If you would like more information on the medical, industrial, or political aspects of cannabis please contact Michel Aubé at 455-4022.

A final note about Drug Awareness Week (Nov. 13-17): the people who

brought you this campaign really have their hearts in the right place. Kids should not do drugs, nor should we allow a situation in which kids have easy access to drugs. Also, people who are addicted to "hard" drugs, such as alcohol, cocaine, and heroin should have access to treatment rather than prison. HEMP N.B. recognises the need for drug education, addiction prevention and treatment. However, the funds that are so desperately needed for these purposes are being used in part to harass, arrest, and incarcerate peaceful and productive adult pot users. We propose that we switch the focus back to educating the public on the negative effects of drug abuse rather than using police-state tactics to eradicate all users.

Sincerely,
Michel Aubé, HEMP N.B.

Sexual Assault Information Service

Dear Editor,

I am writing on behalf of the group of concerned students who have formed to propose a Student Union Sexual Assault Information Service. I would first like to thank all those staff and officers of the Student Union who have helped so much to make the idea more of a reality.

As you may know, the set-up of such a service was approved in principle by Council last week and a target date of September '95 set for its opening. Again, we would like to commend Council on making this difficult and rather courageous decision and for having the insight to see what a universal problem sexual assault is. In taking this initiative, they have taken a strong and positive step toward improving the quality of life for their constituents.

Of course, there is much work to be done before operations begin. It is our sincere hope that these actions are carried out and the service becomes a reality.

Students concerned with the organisation of a Sexual Assault Service on the UNB campus ask you to write a letter to the President of the UNB Student Union, expressing your support of the idea. Just a short note would help the Student Union executive realise how important this issue is to the student body.

Should you choose to express your views in this way, your letter can be addressed to Paul Estabrooks, President, Student Union, Rm. 126, Student Union Building, and can be either dropped off in person or sent free through campus mail. If you would like more information concerning the formation of the Service, or concerning this campaign, please feel free to get in touch with us at the Student Union office or by E-mail at h2rs@unb.ca.

Thanks for the support,
Greg Moore

Smoke Gets in Their Eyes

The recent article in the Brunswickan "Non-Smokers-unite" is worth considering, not because it sparks a lively debate on smoking and its health effects but, because it represents an irresponsibility, and self-righteousness that must not go unnoticed. Some of the folks propounding the smoking anxieties, cavils, and peevish are amateurs: New Agers who will believe in

anything but facts, bong-smoke theorists who would have the world be as stupid as they are. But these masters of sanctimony have an agenda. These licensed and certified holier-than-thou's work toward a political goal; self-aggrandizement and self-righteousness at the expense of personal freedom.

The hypocritical aspect of this debate is not the concern of health and well being of the students, that's a lie. In fact, the instigators of the smoking ban are constantly seen at the Social Club, Sweets and the Rogue where the smoke level is many times greater than a handful of smokers in Maggie Jean. But I don't ever hear them complaining.

The irresponsible guise of the article was the "scientific proof" on second hand smoke. To suggest that it is more dangerous than smoking itself proves that these agony merchants are out to improve their goals without possessing merit. In fact they are similar to our politicians, because politicians worry so much about overpopulation, famine, ecological disaster, ethnic hatred, plague, and poverty, they must be superior people. And because they worry so much, they must be experts, too.

Exposure to environmental tobacco smoke is difficult to measure by increments. First of all, although irresponsible scientists have tried, one can't extrapolate lung cancer risk from the dosages active smokers take into their lungs. For one, the substances are chemically and quantitatively different: "active" tobacco smoke is made up of smoke particles—and plenty of them—while "passive" smoke is highly diluted, with a partially vaporous content. In addition "active" smokers take deep breaths through their mouths and hold the smoke in their lungs. "Passive" smokers breathe largely through the nose, which filters out impurities.

While blood tests and urine samples do show that non-smokers absorb nicotine from the smokers around them, it is in such small doses that this can be seen as a triumph more for modern scientific calibration than for any cause-and-effect relationship. It's rather like remarking that almost all of the paper money in Miami contains traces of cocaine—it's true, impressive, and meaningless.

In essence it's possible to measure the "respirable suspended particles" that surround a smoker, but very difficult to distinguish them from other particles that may be in the air from cooking, rug fibers, car exhaust, air conditioning etc. Pro-smoking activists like to mention "sick building syndrome" as a major contributor. Indeed the 1976 Legionnaires' disease outbreak is a sick-building incident that cost twenty-nine lives, and occupational studies tend to bear the pro-smokers out: in only 2 to 4 percent of indoor air quality problems is tobacco smoke the major culprit.

Other issues the article pointed to were the smoke detectors and the risk of fire and sprinklers. The incident of the smoke detector going off is actually an amusing one, but, it was not caused by cigarette smoke. Furthermore the threat from fire is always there but it's also there from the kitchen, the fireplace, to the old wiring that occupies this old house. Another fallacy is the suggestion that the sprinkler system will go off if people continue to smoke in their rooms—wrong again—the sprinkler will go off only in the event

(Blood and Thunder
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